

Assessment Scope

The assessment will cover the 13 States in the Southern United States.



What Do You Think?

- ✦ What are some of the wildland-urban interface issues facing your community?
- ✦ What are some of the emerging challenges and opportunities unique to interface areas?
- ✦ What are critical research, management, and technology transfer/extension needs?

Let Us Know!

- ✦ Visit the "Interface South" website: www.interfacesouth.org
- ✦ Join the Southern Wildland Urban Interface Network (SWUINET) listserve (an electronic mailing list that is used to share information). Refer to the website for information on joining.
- ✦ Contact:

Annie Hermansen
Technology Transfer Coordinator

USDA Forest Service
The Southern Center for Wildland-Urban
Interface Research and Information

The Seagle Building
408 W. University Ave., Ste 101
Gainesville, FL 32601

352-376-3271
352-376-4536 (FAX)
ahermansen@fs.fed.us
www.interfacesouth.org

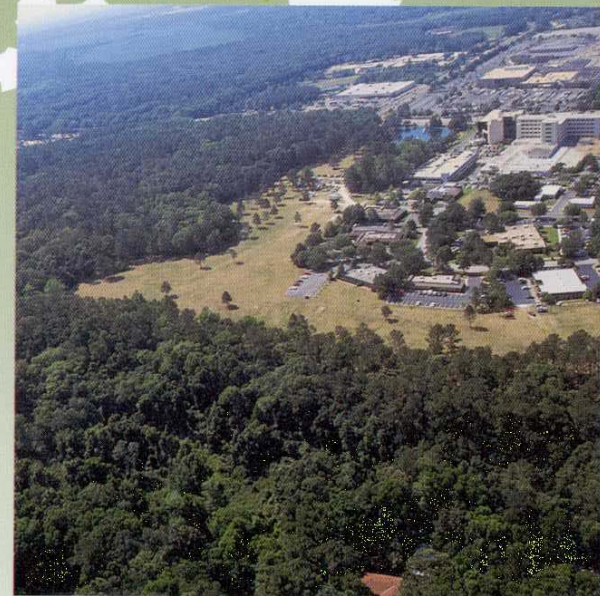


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Human Influences on Forest Ecosystems



The Southern Wildland- Urban Interface Assessment



A joint project by the Southern Region and the Southern Research Station of the USDA Forest Service and the Southern Group of State Foresters





Wildland-Urban Interface

As populations and urbanization expand in the South, human influences on forests are increasing. This can be seen in areas undergoing land use change, such as: (1) on the edges of both large cities and small communities where forests or other rural

land are adjacent to urban land; (2) where homes and other structures are intermixed with forests or other rural land uses; (3) where islands of undeveloped lands are left within urban areas. These unique areas, known as the wildland-urban interface, present new challenges and opportunities for natural resource managers as well as local residents.

Human influences are creating greater demands for forest-based recreation and noncommodity services, such as air and water quality.

Assessing the Situation

Acquiring additional knowledge, skills, and tools for managing resources and forming collaborative partnerships are essential to those working in the wildland-urban interface. The Southern Research Station and the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service, along with the Southern Group of State Foresters, are assessing the wildland-urban interface to help address this growing need for information and tools. Input is being sought from resource managers, developers, planners, policymakers, and others affected by the changes occurring in southern forests.



Do wildfire cost and conflict increase as communities expand into forests?

Assessment Objectives

- ✱ Describe the southern wildland-urban interface in terms of its scale and dynamics.
- ✱ Examine factors that are driving change in the interface and the resulting ecological and socioeconomic effects.
- ✱ Identify past and currently active research, programs, and technology transfer.
- ✱ Identify critical research, management options, and technology transfer that will meet future needs in the South.
- ✱ Promote dialogue and involvement among experts, practitioners, and the public.



Interface Issues

- ✱ Watershed protection and management
- ✱ Fire management and prevention
- ✱ Forest resource management and conservation
- ✱ Public policy influence on land-use decisions
- ✱ Public safety, welfare, and quality of life
- ✱ Recreational opportunity and demand

Are urbanization and loss of forest cover increasing the costs that communities pay to maintain and improve water quality and manage stormwater?

